

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
DLOS-09 OES-07 EB-08 INT-05 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00  
IO-13 /108 W

-----037337 241734Z /11

R 231456Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION USNATO  
RK  
HMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 4453  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 5340

USEEC

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EFIS GW PL DK EEC  
SUBJ: POLISH-DANISH DISPUTE ON FISHING ZONES; POLISH SEIZURE  
OF WEST GERMAN FISHING BOATS

REF: (A) BONN 11478 (NOTAL); (B) WARSAW 4927 (NOTAL)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THE DANISH-POLISH DISPUTE OVER  
THE EXTENT OF THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S FISHING ZONE OFF THE  
COASTS OF THE ISLAND OF BORNHOLM CONTINUES TO BE A CONTENTIOUS  
ISSUE IN POLAND. IN A SPEECH AT GDANSK ON JUNE 20, PARTY  
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SECRETARY GIEREK STRESSED THE POLISH VIEW THAT THE EEC HAS  
NO RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE SINCE THE EEC FISHING  
ZONE DOES NOT EXTEND INTO THE BALTIC AND THE EEC IS NOT A  
PARTY TO THE GDANSK CONVENTION ON THE UTILIZATION OF FISHERY  
RESOURCES. GIEREK'S STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN REITERATED IN  
THE POLISH PRESS WHICH HAS ALSO ATTACKED FRG CLAIMS THAT  
ITS SHIPS CAN FISH IN BORNHOLM WATERS BECAUSE THE FRG IS

A MEMBER OF THE EEC. DANISH FISHERIES MINISTER SVEND JAKOBSEN WILL VISIT POLAND ON JUNE 26 TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE POLES NOT TO SEIZE EEC SHIPS IN SOME SECTIONS OF THE DISPUTED AREA. IN THE MEANWHILE, A POLISH REGIONAL COURT WILL SOON HEAR APPEALS MADE BY THE FRG FOR REMISSION OF HEAVY FINES LEVIED AGAINST TWO GERMAN SHIPS WHICH WERE SEIZED BY THE POLES IN THE BORNHOLM AREA DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. THE STRONG STAND WHICH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE ON THE BORNHOLM FISHING ZONE DISPUTE HAS BECOME APPARENT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS AS A RESULT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY PZPR FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK IN A JUNE 20 SPEECH AT GDANSK AND ALSO FROM ARTICLES IN THE POLISH PRESS. IN HIS GDANSK SPEECH, GIEREK CLAIMED THAT THE DISPUTE OVER THE AREA OF DENMARK'S CLAIM FOR FISHING RIGHTS OFF BORNHOLM CONCERNED ONLY POLAND AND DENMARK AND THAT THE EEC HAS NO RIGHT TO BECOME INVOLVED. HE ALSO DEFENDED POLAND'S SEIZURE OF TWO GERMAN VESSELS FISHING OFF BORNHOLM IN RECENT MONTHS. AN EDITORIAL IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY OF JUNE 21 POINTED OUT THAT THE EEC FISHING ZONE DOES NOT EXTEND INTO THE BALTIC AND THE EEC IS NOT A PARTY TO THE GDANSK CONVENTION ON THE UTILIZATION OF BALTIC FISHERY RESOURCES. THE EDITORIAL ALSO ATTACKED THE FRG FOR COMPLICATING THE ISSUE BY CALLING THE DISPUTED AREA A "GRAY ZONE" ANJQ)3&8,& 5#-5, AS VESSELS FROM AN EEC COUNTRY, FRG FISHING BOATS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FISH THERE  
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WMONG WITH DANISH SHIPS UNTIL THE DISPUTE IS RESOLVED.

3. THE DANISH EMBASSY HERE TELLS US THAT DANISH FISHERIES MINISTER SVEND JAKOBSEN WILL VISIT WARSAW ON JUNE 26 AND 27 FOR MEETINGS WITH THE GOP TO TRY TO WORK OUT SOME AGREEMENT. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE POLES INSIST THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE STRICTLY BILATERAL, WHILE THE DANES INSIST THAT THE EEC COMMISSION MUST REPRESENT DENMARK. AT PRESENT THE POLES DEMAND THAT NO THIRD PARTY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE FRG AND SWEDEN, FISH IN THE DISPUTED AREA. BUT THE DANES HAVE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS WITH BOTH WEST GERMANY AND SWEDEN ALLOWING THEM TO FISH IN DANISH WATERS INCLUDING THOSE OFF BORNHOLM.

4. DURING HIS VISIT TO WARSAW, MINISTER JAKOBSEN WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THE POLES NOT TO SEIZE FRG AND OTHER FISHING VESSELS NORTH OF THE MEDIAN ZONE IN THE DISPUTED AREA. THE WATERS IN THE NORTHERN AREA, WHICH IS THE SITE OF A DUMPING GROUND FOR WORLD WAR II GERMAN AMMUNITION, ARE THE BEST FISHING GROUNDS IN THE ENTIRE AREA. THE DANES ARE DOUBTFUL

THAT THE POLES WILL AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TWO SMALL GERMAN FISHING CUTTERS  
WHICH WERE SEIZED BY THE POLES IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 5340 BEING SERVICED.  
COPY TO FOLLOW.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 5340

USEEC

RETURNED TO GERMANY AFTER HAVING THEIR CREWS ARRESTED AND  
THEN RELEASED, THEIR CATCHES CONFISCATED, AND THEIR CAPTAINS  
SUBJECTED TO FINES TOTALLING ABOUT DM 100,000. THE FINES,  
WHICH WERE PAID BY THE FRG GOVERNMENT, MAY BE RESCINDED,  
DEPENDING ON THE DECISION OF THE POLISH REGIONAL COURT AT  
KOSZALIN WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HEAR APPEALS ON THE TWO  
SEIZURE CASES SOON.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS ENTIRE CONTROVERSY MAY,  
AT FIRST GLANCE, APPEAR AS A REGIONAL AND TECHNICAL DISPUTE,

A BALTIC SQUABBLE OVER FISHING, IT REFLECTS SOME OF THE  
BROADER PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN POLAND'S FOREIGN ECONOMIC  
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RELATIONS IN THE LATE 1970'S. THESE INCLUDE SEVERE BALANCE  
OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS PRESSURES WHICH HAVE  
MADE THE LOSS OF HARD CURRENCY REVENUE FROM FISHING  
A MUCH MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A FEW  
YEARS AGO. AND THE GOP REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH THE EEC REFLECTS  
CEMA DEMANDS FOR AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WITH THE EC COMMISSION,  
AND ALSO CEMA (READ SOVIET) INSISTENCE THAT INDIVIDUAL CEMA  
COUNTRIES HAVE NO RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE EEC.  
END COMMENT.  
SCHAUFEELE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BONN 11478, 78 WARSAW 4927  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014